

Superintendent Skeiber honored by teachers' union

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Superintendent of Schools Susan Skeiber was thanked at the most recent School Committee meeting by the Duxbury Teacher's Association for her years of service to the Duxbury Public Schools.

"The Duxbury Teacher's Association and its executive board thanks Susan Skeiber ... for her commitment and service to the Duxbury Public Schools," said Mary Stadelmann, vice president of the union. "We wish her the best of good fortune."

Stadelmann then presented Skeiber with two plaques from the association.

"I think we've done a good job of working together," said Skeiber as she thanked Stadelmann and the association.

Skeiber announced at the beginning of the year that she would be leaving Duxbury at the end of the school year when her contract expires. She has worked in the Duxbury schools for 15 years and has been an elementary school principal, a middle school assistant principal and the assistant superintendent.

Also at Wednesday's meeting, the School Committee ushered in the next era for the school district as they inked the contract for Dr. Benedict Tantillo, who will take over as superintendent starting Aug. 1. He will make \$175,000 per year, according to School Committee Chairwoman Anne Ward.

Ward and fellow School Committee member Mary Lou Buell toured Tantillo's former workplace, the Pascack Valley Regional High School District in New Jersey, last week.

"I think everybody came away feeling very positive about the climate in those schools and the things that are going on there," said Ward.

Tantillo was named New Jersey's superintendent of the



Superintendent of Schools Susan Skeiber shows off one of two plaques she received from the Duxbury Teacher's Association for her 15 years of service to the Duxbury Public Schools.

year in 2006 and pioneered a one-student one-laptop program in his district.

In other business, the School Committee:

- Heard an update from the Grad Nite committee about the school-sponsored graduation after party from Jill Cadigan-Christenson and Paula Valencia. The event was held at the high school from 10 p.m.-5 a.m. following the graduation ceremonies.

"[Grad Nite is] an opportunity for Duxbury seniors to have a safe fun environment where they can experience graduation night with all of their classmates," Cadigan-Christenson said.

Both women said the 2010 grad night was the biggest turnout in the program's nine-year history.

- Heard from Science Department Head Cheryl Lewis about a new online summer school program the district is piloting called the Plato Project. Lewis told the School Committee the district has the software licenses year-round

and could be used in ways other than credit recovery in the summer. For example, if a student studying abroad doesn't have the ability to take a required US history course, they could do it online.

- Read into the record a statement of support from the Duxbury Teacher's Association for the cafeteria workers, many of whom saw their hours and benefits temporarily reduced over the past year.

"The Duxbury Teacher's Association empathizes with the cafeteria workers and hopes the School Committee will support these workers and the children with whom they share a special time of the day," said the statement from DTA president Nancy Chadwick.

Resident Jim Sullivan spoke during public forum and pointed out that during Naudman's business updates, the lunch program was identified as having a surplus. Sullivan has frequently urged the committee to retroactively compensate the cafeteria workers for their lost hours and benefits.

Reception planned for Skeiber

On Wednesday, June 23, the community is invited to attend a reception to honor Superintendent Sue Skeiber for her many years of dedicated service to the students and families of Duxbury Public Schools. The event will be held in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center (75 Alden Street) from 4:30-6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The event is being hosted by the Chandler, Alden and Middle School PTAs and the High School PTO.